AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for allowing communication between a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program and a distributed object, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request from said PERL program, said request specifying said distributed object;

b) translating said request from said PERL program to a format which is suitable for use with a Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), wherein said translating comprises translating from PERL to an intermediate language and translating from said intermediate language to the format that is suitable for the CORBA;

c) making a call to access said distributed object via the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA);

d) receiving a response from said call in said step c);

e) translating said response to a form which is substantially compliant with the Practical Extraction Report Language; and

f) passing said translated response from said step e) to said PERL program.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step b) comprises the step of:

b1) an adapter program converting a data structure specified by said PERL request into a form which is substantially compliant with a communication program.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said communication program comprises a client stub.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step b) comprises the step of:

b1) an adapter program converting said PERL request into a request which is substantially compliant with the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) format.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said adapter program is written in a first programming language and said PERL application is written in second programming language, said first and said second programming languages being different.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said adapter program is substantially compliant with the C programming language.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said PERL program is located on a first computer system and said distributed object is located on a second computer system.

8.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step e) comprises the step of:

        e1) an adapter program converting a data structure into a form which is substantially compliant with the Practical Extraction Report Language.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step e) comprises the step of:

        e1) for a plurality of objects described in an Interface Definition Language (IDL), providing a corresponding plurality of translations in an adapter program, wherein said adapter program translates between a communication program and said PERL program.

10.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

        g) said PERL program accessing user information over a number of databases by connecting to a server via said CORBA.

11.   (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon program instructions for allowing a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program to communicate with a distributed object via Common

Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), said instructions carrying out a method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request from said PERL program, said request specifying said distributed object;

b) translating said request from said PERL program to a format which is suitable for use with a Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA);

c) making a call to access said distributed object via the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA);

d) receiving a response from said call in said step c);

e) translating said response to a form which is substantially compliant with the Practical Extraction Report Language; and

f) passing said translated response from said step e) to said PERL program.

12. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said step b) of said method comprises the step of:

b1) converting said PERL request into a request which is substantially compliant with the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) format.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 having further stored therein said PERL program; and

wherein said distributed object is located on a remote computer system.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said program comprises a client stub.

15. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 14 wherein said step b) of said method comprises the step of:

b1) converting a data structure into a form which is substantially compliant with the data structures of said client stub.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 having further stored therein said PERL program and said distributed object.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said step e) of said method comprises the step of:

e1) converting a data structure into a form which is substantially compliant with the Practical Extraction Report Language.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said step e) of said method comprises the step of:

e1) for a plurality of objects described in an Interface Definition Language (IDL), providing a corresponding plurality of translations.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said program comprises a module generated by Practical Extraction Report Language External Subroutine (PERL-XS).

20. (Original) In a computer system, means for providing communication between a Practical Extraction Report Language (PERL) program and a distributed object comprising:

a) means for translating a call from said PERL program to a format substantially compliant with a Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA); and

b) means for translating a response from said call to a format substantially compliant with the Practical Extraction Report Language.

21. (Original) The means for providing communication of Claim 20 further comprising means to access said distributed object via Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA).

22.   (Original) The means for providing communication of Claim 20 wherein said means for translating said call from said PERL program comprises:

means for converting a data structure into a form which is substantially compliant with a program which accesses said distributed object via said Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA).

23.   (Original) The means for providing communication of Claim 20 wherein said means for translating said call from said PERL program comprises:

means for converting said PERL request into a request which is substantially compliant with the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) format.

24.   (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising an adapter program that performs memory management of input and output parameters of the PERL program.

25.   (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the input and output parameters of the PERL program are related to subroutines of the PERL program that are enabled to communicate to CORBA objects.

26.   (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising an adapter program handling an exception that relates to said PERL program.

27.   (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising said adaptor program notifying said PERL program of said exception.

28.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said intermediate language is substantially compliant with a C programming language.